

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02394 121117Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
AID-05 /063 W
-----121122Z 011148 /22

P R 120750Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 297
INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2394

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJ: HARTAL A LIMITED SUCCESS; FURTHER TROUBLE MAY FOLLOW

1. PNA HIGH COMMAND MET LAST NIGHT IN LAHORE TO DETERMINE POST-ELECTION STRATEGY. ALLIANCE IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY TO DISCLOSE THIS. ASGHAR KHAN HAS TOLD AT LEAST TWO FOREIGN SOURCES THAT PNA WILL TAKE OUT LARGE PROCESSIONS IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 144 (FORBIDDING PUBLIC GATHERINGS) ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13. RUMORS IN LAHORE, KARACHI, AND ISLAMABAD HAVE IT THAT ALLIANCE INTENDS TO STAGE SUCH "PEACEFUL" DEMONSTRATIONS, AND IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED IN KARACHI THAT PROCESSION THERE WILL BE LED BY NDP LEADER SHERBAZ MAZARI. EARLIER, PNA CHIEF MUFTI MEHMUD HAD TOLD PESHAWAR PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 11 THAT ALLIANCE HAD NOT YET MADE ANY DECISION ABOUT LAUNCHING CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CAMPAIGN, BUT INTENDED TO CHALLENGE IMPOSITION OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 02394 121117Z

SECTION 144 IN COURTS AND DEMANDED RE-RUN OF ELECTIONS UNDER ARMY SUPERVISION.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY REPEATED TO DEPARTMENT SITREPS ON YESTERDAY'S HARTAL SENT TO US BY CONGENS LAHORE AND KARACHI. BOTH CITIES ARE BACK TO NORMAL TODAY. KARACHI REPORTS TODAY THAT THE PNA CAN RIGHTFULLY CONCLUDE THAT THE HARTAL THERE

DEMONSTRATED THE PARTY'S SUBSTANTIAL POWER TO GENERATE AGITATION. IT NOTES THAT THE PRESS, WHOSE REPORTING OF THE KARACHI HARTAL WAS EXTENSIVE AND ACCURATE, INDICATES THAT OVER 200 WERE ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF HARTAL ACTIVITIES. THE ACCURACY OF THIS FIGURE CANNOT BE CONFIRMED, BUT IT SHOULD PROBABLY BE REGARDED AS A MINIMUM. THE POLICY OF THE DAY ON THE PART OF THE KARACHI SECURITY FORCES WAS TO APPLY MINIMUM NECESSARY FORCE, WHICH IN MOST CASES MEANT KEEPING AN EYE ON OR DISPERSING GATHERING CROWDS. ALTHOUGH KARACHI'S INFORMATION IS ADMITTEDLY SPOTTY, IT CONCLUDES THAT THE HARTAL WAS LESS SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER SIND CITIES SUCH AS HYDERABAD AND SUKKUR. (REUTERS RCGADVBNDET HERE TELLS US THAT HIS SOURCES IN THOSE CITIES REPORT THAT HARTAL WAS AS SUCCESSFUL THERE AS IN KARACHI.)

3. PRESS REPORTS THAT GOP FOR ITS PART CLAIMS THAT HARTAL LARGELY FAILED. GOP MAINTAINS THAT MOST BUSINESSES THAT CLOSED YESTERDAY DID SO BECAUSE SHOPKEEPERS NORMALLY OBSERVE A FRIDAY HOLIDAY. GOP-OWNED APP WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT HARTAL EVOKED ONLY LIMITED RESPONSE MAINLY RESTRICTED TO SIND CITIES OF KARACHI AND HYDERABAD PLUS NWFP CAPITAL, PESHAWAR. APP CLAIMS NO ONE WAS KILLED AND ONLY A FEW RECEIVED MINOR INJURIES.

4. IN PESHAWAR, WHERE OUR CONSULATE REPORTS HARTAL WAS ONLY PARTLY SUCCESSFUL (WITH PERHAPS 50 PC OF THE SHOPS WHICH NORMALLY OPEN ON FRIDAY SHUT DOWN), GOVERNMENT PRESS NOTE STATES THAT PNA SUPPORTERS TOOK OUT A PROCESSION AFTER PRAYERS. ACCORDING PRESS NOTE, MAGISTRATE WARNED THEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 02394 121117Z

THEY WERE VIOLATING SECTION 144 AND WHEN PROCESSION BECAME UNRULY AND BEGAN STONING POLICE, AUTHORITIES RESORTED TO LATHI CHARGE AND TEAR GAS ATTACK. FOUR DEMONSTRATORS, THE LOCAL MAGISTRATE, AND THREE POLICEMEN WERE SAID IN THE NOTE TO HAVE BEEN INJURED. OTHER CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN NWFP TOWNS OF DERA ISMAIL KHAN AND TONK. IN PINDI, WHERE HARTAL FLOPPED, POLICE ALSO WERE OBLIGED TO LATHI CHARGE A POST-PRAYER GATHERING WHICH REFUSED TO DISPERSE. SAME THING HAPPENED IN LAHORE, WHERE ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT PRESS NOTE TEAR GAS WAS ALSO USED. GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS THAT ELSEWHERE IN PUNJAB THERE WERE NO OTHER INCIDENTS.

5. BALUCHISTAN CHIEF MINISTER BAROZAI CLAIMED STRIKE FIZZLED THERE. GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE IN QUETTA SAID PNA AND PAKHTOON-HWA NAP COMBINED TO PRODUCE PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL STRIKE IN SOME COMMERCIAL QUARTERS OF QUETTA. A FEW SHOPS WERE REPORTEDLY CLOSED IN OTHER PROVINCIAL TOWNS, BUT SITUATION OTHERWISE IS SAID TO BE NORMAL.

6. CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER, UNDER SHARP OPPOSITION FIRE,
IS HOLDING MID-DAY PRESS CONFERENCE. BHUTTO WILL ADDRESS THE
NATION TONIGHT.
BYROADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA02394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770085-1204
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770366/aaaacfsp.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 699a24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3127986
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARTAL A LIMITED SUCCESS; FURTHER TROUBLE MAY FOLLOW
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/699a24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009